LONDON MISSION

VOLUME 73 - NOV 2018













WELCOME MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ORVILLE LONDON



In recent months, a number of activities and incidents have brought focus on the character of our people, the intricacies of our society and the challenges that we continue to face, in an increasingly complex and ever changing modern world. In Trinidad, communities are still recovering from the floods which had devastated the homes of hundreds of residents. But in the midst of that devastation and despite the isolated cases of deviant behaviour, there were numerous instances of community cooperation and individual generosity, even heroism. Meanwhile, the country's economic situation remains challenging and our recovery will depend as much on the resilience of the population, as on the policies of the Government. In these circumstances, President Paula Mae Weekes' admonition in her Independence Day Address that "every individual has an important role to play in nation building as institutions merely facilitate the democratic process" must instruct our actions, as we face this unpredictable future.

The environment is just as unpredictable for nationals living in the United Kingdom where the Brexit dilemma continues to dominate the headlines and frustrate the decision makers. With less than five months before the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union, there is still no agreement within Prime Minister Theresa May's Cabinet; dwindling prospects of gaining a majority within the British Parliament, for any of the available options; and increasing pessimism over the European Union's inclination to offer the concessions that would make a Brexit deal acceptable to a Parliament that must approve it. The Trinidad and Tobago nationals in the United Kingdom must, therefore, face the possibility of economic decline and its negative consequences.

I am aware of their concerns but I have been impressed by the desire of so many members of the diaspora to contribute to the development of their own homeland. However that desire will not be translated into impactful action except there is meaningful and consistent communication among members of the diaspora and between the diaspora and stakeholders in Trinidad and Tobago.

Over the years, the London Mission has remained conscious of its responsibility to assist in facilitating that interaction. It has been producing the Newsletter for more than three decades and although social media would have revolutionised the entire communication process, it is still critically important that we chronicle our activities, share relevant and accurate information, pay tribute to our exemplars, discuss topical issues and provide opportunities for individuals and organisations to express themselves; on paper. The Mission expects to continue producing the Newsletter and invite our readers to submit contributions and provide feedback to the Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Unit, at the London Mission.

This Newsletter is produced, totally in house. This includes writing, editing, type setting and printing. The production of this issue was not without challenge and I must pay tribute to staff members Beverley Awonaya and Lawson Lovell whose dedication and persistence ensured that we can deliver, even if belatedly, this issue of the London Mission Newsletter.

STAY CONNECTED

Facebook TTHC London

Twitter @TTHC_London

Website foreign.gov.tt/hclondon

Complete the National's Registration Form online or in person at the T&T High Commission.

CONTENTS

LONDON MISSION / NOV 2018 / ISSUE 73

A Publication of: The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London

42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT

TEL: 020 7245 9351 | FAX: 020 7823 1065 EMAIL: hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt

PRINTING
Public, Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department of The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
H.E. Orville London

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
H.E. Orville London
Mrs. Beverley Awonaya
Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Mr. Lawson C. Lovell
Mrs. Beverley Awonaya

LAYOUT AND DESIGN
Mr. Lawson C. Lovell

PROOFING:
Mrs Dawn Elie-Forde
Mrs. Beverley Awonaya

MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY PAULA-MAE WEEKES ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018

Fellow citizens, on 31st August 1962, Trinidad and Tobago shook off the reins of colonialism and dared to go it alone. To the tolling of bells, the Union Jack was lowered for the final time and the Red, White and Black hoisted to signal the birth of our nation.

In his Independence address, Dr Eric Williams, our nation's first Prime Minister, charged the citizens of this land always to place first the national interest and cause. He further proclaimed amidst great country-wide expectations You are on your own in a big world. You are nobody's boss, and nobody is your boss. No longer were we attached by the umbilical cord to the metropole; we had secured the right to determine our own future – an exhilarating, if somewhat daunting prospect.

Since then, Trinidad and Tobago has enjoyed a relatively stable democracy, significant economic transformation and general improvement in the quality of life of its citizens. Recently though, challenging circumstances have arisen, brought on by rising levels of criminal activity and economic uncertainty. In that context and considering the continued role of the Privy Council in determining our affairs, our vulnerability as a Small Island Developing State to the vagaries of the world economy and the effects of climate change on our tiny island, among other concerns, the question need be posed:



Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

How independent are we?

It is a significant sign of maturity when a nation embarks on this most solemn of endeavours, charting the course to self-determination and taking full responsibility for the future of its citizenry but political separation from the United Kingdom was only the first step of our long journey of self-discovery.

Independence has never been a static notion; it implies the constant working out of identity and purpose, sovereignty over one's decisions and taking responsibility for one's actions. When those decisions bear good fruit, we are entitled to pat ourselves on the back, but when they go wrong, as they often do, we must not lay blame at the feet of others. Our attitudes and the lens through which we view our roles as citizens must be firmly aligned to the needs of our country, which at this time in our history, appear more demanding than ever.

Every individual has an important role to play in nation-building as institutions merely facilitate the democratic process. The active participation of every citizen in the social, economic and political life of our nation is required to ensure that our children inherit a stable and prosperous country.

Our journey to maturity can only be accomplished if we are united, not only by a common goal, but with agreement on how this can be achieved. Let us aspire together and achieve together as we press forward into the future, working to ensure that our carefully selected watchwords: Discipline, Production and Tolerance are incorporated into our daily lives.

We cannot afford to sit and wait for development to happen – we must shoulder the daily responsibility of being disciplined, caring and industrious in order to build Trinidad and Tobago into the great nation we know it can be. The privilege of having control over our affairs must be matched by determination to fulfil the vision of the many Trinbagonians who longed for and finally achieved our independence.

I am confident in the strength of our diversity, the oneness of our common ideals and the sufficiency and resolve of our people, to harness their considerable talents in the service of making Trinidad and Tobago a nation in which we can all take pride.

I wish the national community a safe, happy and enjoyable Independence Day.





At left: President Paula-Mae Weekes, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces at the Independence Day Parade in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, **Above:** Mounted Police escort Her Excellency from President's House to the Queen's Park Savannah for the Parade.

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE DR KEITH ROWLEY, PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF REPUBLIC DAY 2018

Fellow Citizens, Today we mark 42 years since Parliament first met under our new Republican Constitution.

As I reflect on that first sitting, I am again reminded of the weighty responsibility entrusted to all of us who represent our beloved nation in that esteemed place.

I would like to take this opportunity to urge all citizens to demonstrate a keen interest in our Parliamentary proceedings. Persons either elected or appointed to sit here make decisions that have a profound impact on all our lives.

Elected officials ought to make representation on your behalf and act in a way that ensures that your individual rights are protected and that the interests of the national community are served. In this vein, the choice of persons who serve in Opposition are as equally important as those who serve in Government.



Pictured: *Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*

A Republican form of Government is a system whereby citizens rule through their elected representatives. It is therefore paramount that we are closely attuned to the nature of the general representation we are afforded and more specifically to the way this representation is exercised in the Parliament.

In 2006 the Parliament began televising its proceedings via a dedicated television channel. Online streaming began shortly thereafter.

This was an important step in ensuring that you are regularly updated on matters of national interest. We cannot hold our leaders to account if we are ignorant to the quality of their representation.

A truly Republican state requires the involvement of all us working together to protect and maintain the fundamental human rights and freedoms that have been entrenched in the Constitution.

On behalf of my Government and my family I wish all the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago a safe and happy Republic Day 2018.

NATIONAL AWARDS 2018

The National Awards of Trinidad and Tobago acknowledge the involvement of citizens and non-nationals who have had a significant and positive impact on the twin island Republic. The awards which were instituted in 1969 have been presented yearly in four categories, they are: The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (replaced the Trinity Cross as the Highest Award), The Trinity Cross (Last awarded in 2005), The Chaconia Medal, The Humming Bird Medal and The Public Servants' Medal of Merit

The following awards were conferred on the occasion of the Forty- second Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's Reublic Day:

NAME	POSITION	IN THE SPHERE OF:
ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - The highest award in TnT for distinguished and outstanding service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr Wendell Mottley	Former Finance Minister/athlete	National Development/Public Service
CHACONIA MEDAL (GOLD) - For long and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago		
Mr Jones P Madeira	Editorial Executive Consultant	Public Service/Journalism
Dr Romesh Mootoo	Medical Practitioner	Medicine/Health
Dr Waveney Charles	Haemotologist	Medicine
Mr Ewart Williams	Former Central Bank Governor	Public Service
Ms Joan Yuille Williams	Former Minister of Community Development & Gender Affairs	Culture/Public Service

CHACONIA MEDAL (SILVER) - For long and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Dr Clifford Alexis	Musical instrument specialist/educator/composer	Culture/Community Service
Neville Jules	Retired pan player/arranger	Culture/Community Service
Roy Narinesingh	Publisher/author/editor	Education
Pundit Seereeram Maharaj	Pundit	Religion/Culture
Dr Kern Tobias	Caribbean Union Conference president	Community Service
Pundit Bhownath Maraj	Pundit	Religion/Culture

HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (GOLD) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Kent Bede Bernard	Court caseworker	Sport
Hazel Thompson-Ahye	Attorney	Public Service/Youth Development
Angela Murphy	Physiotherapist	Medicine/Health
Breastfeeding Association of T&T		Community Service/Health
Dr Helene Marceau	Medical Doctor	Medicine/Public Service
Winston "Explainer" Henry	Calypsonian	Culture/Education
Dr Ian Anthony Hypolite	Psychiatrist/Athletic coach	Sport
Dr Varma Deyalsingh	Family Doctor/Psychiatrist	Medicine/Health
Thomas E Lawrence	T&T Civil Aviation Authority chairman & retired airline Captain	Public Service

HUMMINGBIRD MEDAL (BRONZE) - For loyal and devoted service to Trinidad & Tobago

Michael Paul	Retired TSTT technician	Sport/Community Service
Haji Mohammed Hosein	Retired school principal	Sport/Education
Narrie Aproo	Black Indian masquerader	Culture/Community Service
Keith Thomas	Swim Coach	Community Service/Youth Development
Arnold Alpheus Ransome	Lead Baritone Singer - Southernaires Choir	Culture
Ella Andall	Calypsonian/actress	Culture/Music
Willard "Relator" Harris	Calypsonian	Culture
Donric "Funny" Williamson	Calypsonian	Culture
Fred "Composer" Mitchell	Calypsonian	Culture
Teniel Campbell	Cyclist	Sport
Dylan Carter	Swimmer	Sport
Nicholas Paul	Cyclist	Sport
Kwesi Browne	Cyclist	Sport
Njisane Phillip	Cyclist	Sport

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (GOLD) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Sariah Estrada	Student USC	Gallantry

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL OF MERIT (SILVER) - For outstanding and meritorious service to Trinidad & Tobago

Michael Scott	Retired teacher - Posthumously	Arts/Community Service
Dr Oswin Christian Rose	Consumer Law Specialist	Public Service
Beryl Irma Brewster	Senior nursing lecturer	Public Service/Health
Prem Premanand Nandlal	Retired industrial chemist	Medicine
Dr Rasheed Usman Adam	Medical Doctor/Neurosurgeon	Public Service/Medicine
Ronald Richardson	Retired Teacher II	Community Service/Education

Bronson Berry Merritt	Retired School Supervisor III	Education/ Public Service
Teddy Brathwaite	Retired Deputy Commissioner of Prisons - Posthumously	Public Service/Defence Force
Liaquat Ali Shah	CEO/chemical engineer	Public Service
Camille Hosein	Retired principal	Education/Public Service
Francis Seupaul	Retired principal - Posthumously	Education/Community Service
Lynette Lalla-Chote	Retired Principal	Education/Community Service
Dr Lester Efebo Wilkinson	Retired Ambassador/Perm Sec/consultant	Public Service
Mahmud Sultan Dean Aziz	Retired Barrister at law	Public Service

MEDAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN (GOLD) - For Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Women's Rights and Issues in Trinidad and Tobago

Dr Krishendaye Rampersad	Writer, Journalist, Educator	Journalism/Development of Women

WATCH THE VIDEO



National Awards Ceremony held at the National Academy for the Performing Arts
https://fb.com/tttliveonline/videos/2228676740739371







Top: Humming Bird Medal Silver recipients: Mr. Michael Paul, Haji Mohammed Hosein, Mr. Narrie Aproo, Mr. Keith Thomas, Mr. Arnold Alpheus Ransome, Ms. Ella Andall, Mr. Willard "Relator" Harris, Mr. Donric "Funny" Williamson, Mr. Fred "Composer" Mitchell, Ms. Teneil Campbell, Mr. Dylan Carter, Mr. Nicholas Paul, Mr. Kwesi Browne, Mr. Njisane Phillip, and Humming Bird Medal Bronze recipient: Ms. Sariah Estrada. **At bottom left:** Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes with the Chaconia Medal Gold Awardees. L_R Mr. Ewart Williams, Dr. Romesh Mootoo, Dr. Waveney Charles, Mr. Jones P. Madeira and Mrs. Joan Yuille Williams. **At bottom right:** The National Awards of Trinidad and Tobago.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2018/19

*Budget Statement 2019 was presented by the Honourable Colm Imbert, the Minister of Finance October 1st, 2018. Please use the following link to access all of the 2019 Budget Documents - **https://www.finance.gov.tt/budget-statement-2019***

Estimated Revenue: $47.724 billion
Estimated Expenditure: $51.776 billion:

- Education and Training $7.392 billion
- National Security $6.120 billion
- Health $5.695 billion
- Works and Transport $3.546 billion
- Public Utilities $3.182 billion
- Rural Development and Local Government $1.760 billion
- Housing $1.033 billion
- Agriculture $0.780 billion
- Tobago $2.229 billion

Estimated oil price: US$65/barrel
Estimated gas price: US2.75/mmbtu

- Unemployment is at 5%
- Inflation is the among the world's lowest
- Public debt is now 60.9% of GDP
- US$7.7B external funds and US$6B in Heritage & Stabilization fund
- Economic growth expected to be 1.9% for 2018

Works and Transport

- Fuel: The cost of Super gasoline to increase from $3.97 to $4.97 per litre.

Education

- Tertiary Education allowance now at $72,000 per year

Housing

- Stamp duty for 1st time home owners waived from $800,000 to $1.5M
- Property Tax to be implemented and only applicable for 2019
- New interest-bearing housing bonds in an initial amount of $1.5 billion would be offered by the Government
- Penalty fines for tax evasion to increase from $3,000 to $10,000 for submission of incorrect information on TD1s. The tax fraud penalty will see an increase from $50,000 to $250,000.

Health and Social Care

- Food cards value to increase by $100 for approved households effective January 1, 2019
- Public service pension will increase to a minimum of $3500 per month to public servants on retirement.
- Cap on Senior Citizen pension now at $6,000
- Public Assistance Grant to increase by $150
- Disability Grant – Children under 18 now have access to funding

National Security

- Crime Stoppers budget increased by $2.5M
- The Police Service will receive a technology boost, with increased use of drone technology, GPS in vehicles, dashboard cameras, laptops in all vehicles, and body cameras for police officers. Uniforms will be changed to make it more difficult to counterfeit.
- 100 percent increase in litter penalties, effective January 2019.
- 100 percent increase in all fines related to cruelty to children, effective January 1, 2019.

Business

- Businesses that earn Foreign Exchange to get a tax credit
- Exchange rate controls have contained inflation
- Chinese interests Beijing Construction to assist in manufacturing Industry which has grown by 7.3% in 2018

Energy and Renewable Energy

- Petrotrin to be repurposed to exploration
- Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago committed to increase energy supply by using renewables up to 10.0 percent by 2021

Tobago

- Sandals to be built at Buccoo Golden Grove and will be owned by TT but managed by Sandals resort – 1000 rooms up to 2000 permanent employees est income $480M in taxes to country
- 1hr travel time to Tobago from new port to be opened in Toco

CARIBBEAN DIASPORA CELEBRATES CARICOM DAY









1) High Commissioner Orville London stands side by side with the High Commissioners of the Caricom countries and Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, **2)** Mr Dexter Machan on steel pan, **3)** HE Seth Ramocan, High Commissioner for Jamaica received the Caricom flag from outgoing chairman Ambassador Bocchit Edmond of Haiti, in a ceremonial hand-over, **4)** a cross section of the attendees

Heads of Mission from thirteen Caricom countries joined members of the Caribbean diaspora and specially invited guests at a church service to commemorate Caricom Day, on Wednesday 4th July. The well attended ceremony was held at the Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London and the sermon was delivered by Reverend Lloyd Denny who came to the United Kingdom from Jamaica.

In addressing the congregation, Reverend Denny praised the Heads of Mission for organising the service and stressed the importance of initiatives which placed God at the centre of activities we also sensitised the diaspora, especially the youths, about the history of the Caribbean and the contributions of its people.

Jamaica High Commissioner Seth Ramocan who will chair the Caricom Heads of Mission Caucus in the United Kingdom for the next six months, received the Caricom flag from outgoing chairman Ambassador Bocchit Edmond of Haiti, in a ceremonial hand-over. After this, High Commissioner Ramocan shared brief remarks and read the message from Caricom Secretary General, Irwin Larocque.

Among the other highlights during the ninety minute service were remarks from Arthur Torrington CBE, co-founder of the Windrush Foundation and cultural items featuring Antigua and Barbuda High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill and her colleague Antonio Joseph, soloist Margaret Johns and her accompanist Dwight Johns on the piano, and Trinidad and Tobago national Dexter Marchan on the steel pan.

THA OFFICIALS MEET HIGH COMMISSIONER LONDON





Above: (L-R) Presiding Officer Denise Tsoiafatt Angus, Leader of Assembly Business Kwesi Des Vignes, Minority Leader Watson Duke and Clerk of the House Sharon Combie who presented High Commissioner Orville London a gift. **At right:** Clerk of the House Sharon Combie signs the guestbook in the presence of High Commissioner London.

Officials of the Tobago House of Assembly paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London at the London Mission, Belgrave Square, on Friday July 13. The Tobago contingent comprised Presiding Officer Denise Tsoiafatt Angus, Leader of Assembly Business Kwesi Des Vignes, Minority Leader Watson Duke and Clerk of the House Sharon Combie. The officials were in the United Kingdom to attend sessions at the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies where their focus was on the functioning of Parliamentary Committees and the challenges and opportunities inherent in a country's adherence to the Westminster model.

During the ninety minute session with the High Commissioner, the officials explained that they would have also benefited from the opportunity to share perspectives with parliamentary representatives from India, Ghana, Ukraine and South Africa. They also informed that a visit was also planned for the UK Parliament where they were expected to interface with some of the parliamentarians.

High Commissioner Orville London said that he was pleased to renew his relationship with the Tobago officials. He noted that their participation in the sessions and the opportunities to network and evaluate were particularly timely, especially in light of the present discussions on self government for Tobago and the additional responsibilities to be placed on the Assembly, related institutions and officials at all levels.

MEETING WITH HEADS OF MISSION FOR FIJI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC





At left: Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, H.E. Dr. Federico Cuello Camilo with High Commissioner London, **At right:** HE Jitoko Tikolevu, High Commissioner of Fiji with High Commissioner London.

High Commissioner Orville London met with Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, His Excellency Dr Federico Cuello Camilo. The Dominican Republic has been elected as one of the ten non permanent members to the United Nations Security Council, to serve a two year term.

His Excellency Mr Jikoto Tikolevu, High Commissioner for Fiji, met with High Commissioner Orville London. Fiji is one of the 53 members of the Commonwealth and is one of the champions of issues affecting Small Island Developing States in the organisation.

NATIONALS MEETING





Pictured: A cross section of the nationals who raised points during the Question and Answer segment of the Nationals Meeting.

Undeterred by the train drivers strike which crippled service on a major line, scores of nationals came out to the Nationals Meeting at the London Mission on Wednesday September 26, to be engaged in what High Commissioner Orville London described as “one of the most interactive sessions in which he had been involved, since his arrival in the United Kingdom”. In his opening address, London took the opportunity to share information on a number of issues, including the state of the Trinidad and Tobago economy, Trade and Investment Opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, Tourism, the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the implications of Brexit for Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean region.

Following up on the Independence Day Church Service theme of “Surmounting the Challenges and Embracing the Opportunities, Together”, he urged the audience to be guided by the admonition of Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes who, in her Independence Day Address, said that “every individual has a role to play in nation building, as institutions merely facilitate the democratic process. The active participation of every citizen in our nation is required to ensure that our children inherit a stable and prosperous country”. He noted that, in his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley also highlighted the importance of individual responsibility when he reminded nationals of the advice of our first Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams who said, in his first Independence Day address in 1962, “Whatever the challenge that faces you, place always first, the national interest and the national cause”.

London stressed that “those admonitions applied to all nationals, regardless of religious orientation, economic circumstances, political affiliation or geographical location. Therefore, it applied to nationals in the United Kingdom, as much as those residing in Trinidad and Tobago”. He said that “in order to play our respective roles, it is imperative that we understand the issues, accept the responsibility and take appropriate action”.

He urged the audience to try “to sell the country, rather than selling the country short”. The challenges facing the economy, he argued, “are daunting, but not insurmountable. We should recognise that we are in a better place now than we were a year ago, and we will be in an even better place, a year from now, if we accept the responsibility and take responsible action”.

London’s address prompted a lively and wide ranging discussion in which nationals elicited additional information, shared their concerns and made recommendations. Of particular interest were the challenges facing the tourism sector, the future of Petrotrin and the energy industry in Trinidad and Tobago, the impact of crime on the image of the country and the role of the diaspora in the continuing development of the country.

At the end of the ninety minute session, there was consensus that, especially in these challenging times, civic minded nationals in the United Kingdom had special roles to play. The focus over the next twelve months, it was agreed, should be on developing strategies and implementing specific measures, including diaspora investment, to “leverage the power of the diaspora in the interest of Trinidad and Tobago”.

In an effort to increase participation among members of the diaspora, many of whom find it impossible to attend meetings at the London Mission, the session was streamed live on the Mission’s Facebook page and reports are that the feedback was encouraging.





PASSING OF A LITERARY GENIUS



Pictured: Nobel prize-winning writer Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul. **Photo: AFP**

When Trinidad and Tobago born writer V. S. Naipaul won the Nobel Prize in 1990, author David Pryce Jones wrote, "The Nobel Prize for Literature has gone to someone who deserves it. Like the great masters of the past, V. S. Naipaul tells us stories of ourselves and the reality we live in. His use of language is as precise as it is beautiful. Simple, strong words with which to express the humanity of all of us".

Written almost three decades before his death on 11 August 2018, at the age of 85, it speaks to the literary genius of a complex individual who "was compared to Conrad, Dickens and Tolstoy, but was also a lightning rod for criticism". Critics describe him as "unpopular but persistent and courageous". He refused to embrace victim-hood as a badge for Third World people and insisted that they had to take responsibility for themselves. As Rachel Dinadio said, " He brought to his work, moral urgency and a novelist's attentiveness to individual lives and triumphs. He won both acclaim and disdain for his caustic portrayals, in novels and non fiction, of the legacy of colonialism".

Naipaul wrote about slavery and revolution; interpreted the rages of the poor and oppressed, examined human foibles and dissected cultures across continents. His was a powerful intellect and even his harshest critics will concede that he has enriched the literature and his impact will be felt, long after his death.

Naipaul was honoured by the United Kingdom, the international community and his native Trinidad and Tobago for his literary contributions. His awards included:

1971: Booker Prize for his novel "In a Free State"

1990: Received his Knighthood in the United Kingdom

1990: Awarded the Trinity Cross, the nation's highest honour, in Trinidad and Tobago

2001: Won the Nobel Prize for Literature

Naipaul has had a testy relationship with his homeland and when he visited in April 2007, after a 15 year absence, his statements and actions did spark widespread controversy. The resentment engendered at that time, has dissipated over the years and today, many nationals will contend that if, as V S Naipaul said in his Nobel address, that he is "the sum of all his works", then Trinidad and Tobago should be justifiably proud of its irascible son.

2018 COMMONWEALTH SHORT STORY PRIZE WINNER – KEVIN JARED HOSEIN



Pictured: Kevin Jared Hosein.
Photos: commonwealthwriters.org

WATCH THE VIDEO

Commonwealth Writers interview with
Kevin Jared Hosein

https://youtu.be/BWJQqI5lHRY

Trinidad and Tobago national Kevin Jared Hosein took top honours at the 2018 Commonwealth Short Story Competition. An international panel of experienced writers adjudged his tale "Passage", as the best of the 5,128 stories presented by writers from 46 countries. Passage which is written in Trinidadian English Creole, was inspired by the true story of an ageing forestry worker who finds a skull while climbing a dangerous mountain trail.

The Chair of the jury, novelist and poet Sarah Hall, said Hosein's winning offering is "in essence, all a reader could want from the short story form".

She added that it was "A truly crafted piece of fiction that transports the reader into another world, upends expectations, and questions the nature of narratives and narrative consequence."

Kevin is the author of three books: The Beast of Kukuyo which won the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature, The Repenters which was on the OCM Bocas Prize for Fiction shortlist and Littletown Secrets. He has been twice shortlisted for the Small Axe Prize for Prose, and his work has been featured in numerous publications, such as Lightspeed and, most recently, We Mark Your Memory: Writing from the Descendants of Indenture.

You can read Kevin's prizewinning story on Granta - https://granta.com/passage

THE CARIBART EXHIBITION – MY SUGAR ISLAND









Pictured: 1-2) Two Paintings which were on dislay in the caribArt Exihibition, **3)** A cross section of the attendees, **4)** (L-R) High Commissioner Orville London, Ms Tricia Trotman-Maraj and Councillor Bernadette Khan, Mayor of Croydon, **5)** Acting High Commissioner Ms Janet Charles for Dominica with artist Saliva June.

The Reception Room at the London Mission was the venue for the highly impressive caribArt Exhibition - My Sugar Island. The exhibition featured a selection of work by emerging and established Caribbean artists. Incorporating paintings, jewellery, and ceramic works, it "recounted the stories and lived experiences of the artists and revealed an authentic and intimate display of work from the Caribbean".

The featured artists included Jean Taylor from The Turks and Caicos; Jamaicans Nasha Bradshaw and Morris Thompson; Yasmin Nicholas, representing Dominica and St Lucia; Salina Jane from Guyana; with Thalia-Mae Nero and Tricia Trotman Maraj from Trinidad and Tobago.

The caribArt Project is the first of its kind in the history of the Caribbean and it provides a platform for Caribbean artists living in Europe, to display and celebrate the rich culture of their region. The Project was founded by Tricia Trotman-Maraj in 2015 and held its official launch in London in 2017. With over 20 years' experience in education, Tricia was inspired to launch the initiative after migrating to the United Kingdom where she became aware of the limited representation of Caribbean art, not only in the UK, but throughout Europe.



Since its inception, the caribArt Project has sought to engage the local communities through storytelling and Carnival workshops for children. It also provides forums for sharing of the region's history and culture with a diverse audience. The caribArt Project provides accessibility for Caribbean art in Europe through travelling exhibitions.

High Commissioner Orville London said that the London Mission will continue to assist in facilitating individuals and organisations whose activities are focused on promoting the culture of Trinidad and Tobago, and the rest of the Caribbean region.

The caribArt Project is featured in WSIMAG.

Check out the article at: *https://wsimag.com/art/39751-my-sugar-island*

INDEPENDENCE DAY 2018 CELEBRATIONS – THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE / EVENING SONG





Top left: Fr Henderson George, **Above:** H.E. Orville London and Mrs Brigid London, **Below:** St Michael and All Angels Steel Orchestra

There was a strong, religious flavour to the official commemoration of the Independence Day celebrations, among nationals in the United Kingdom. On Thursday 30th August, the Dean of Westminster hosted an Evensong Service at the Westminster Abbey where special tribute was paid to Trinidad and Tobago and prayers were said for the country's leaders and people. Members of the Diplomatic Corps joined High Commissioner Orville London and staff at the Mission, for the occasion.

On Sunday September 2, there was an even larger turnout of nationals for the Interfaith Service, at the St Peter's Eaton Square in London. The theme for the service was "Surmounting Our Challenges and Embracing Our Opportunities, Together". Father Henderson George who crafted his homily around the theme, took the opportunity to remind the congregation of the blessings which Trinidad and Tobago had received, over the years and the need for the present generation to take responsibility and continue to contribute, even as the environment becomes more challenging.

Trinidad and Tobago's harmony in diversity was reflected in the prayers from the Christian, Spiritual Baptist, Muslim and Hindu faiths.



High Commissioner Orville London read the Independence message from Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes. Audience satisfaction was further enhanced by the patriotic renditions from Lisa Theodore, Tobago Crusoe, young violinist Jada Marsh and the St Michael and All Angels Steel Orchestra. The camaraderie became even more evident, after the Service, when many nationals congregated in the foyer of the church to enjoy light refreshments, renew acquaintances and share "memories of home".



Pictured: 1) A cross section of the congregation at the Interfaith Service, **2)** Ms Lisa Theodore, **3)** (front row, at left) His Excellency Eldred Edison Bethel, High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and wife attended the Interfaith Service, **4)** Mr Adem Zein Ghany, **5)** Bishop Claudia Quashie, **6)** Ms Omadaye Sawh, **7)** Ms Jada Marsh on violin, **8)** Tobago Crusoe performed a medley of patriotic calypsoes whilst The Reverend Ralph Williamson, Vicar at St Peter's Eaton Square and Father Henderson George looks on, **9)** High Commissioner Orville London greets nationals.



10) High Commissioner Orville London with Ms Trinidad and Tobago UK 2018 delegates, **11)** (L-R) Mr Suresh Rambaran, chutney soca queen Drupatee Ramgoonai and friend, **12)** Imam Rasheed Khan with Canon John Metivier and Fr Henderson George, **13-16)** Congregation gathers outside for refreshments, **17)** Mr Elston Baird, Immigration Attaché with family and a national,**18)** Ms Beverly Toney, Mrs Debora Alleyne De Gazon and Mrs Donna Philip-Forde, **19)** Ms Alafair Celestine and Ms Ann Fridal, **20)** High Commissioner Orville London, Mrs London, Mrs Beverley Awonaya and Mrs Tricia Trotman-Maraj.

WTM LAUNCH FOR NEW TOBAGO TAGLINE











Pictured: **1)** The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation, local hoteliers and tour service providers engaging with visitors at the stand at WTM 2018; **2)** A cross section of the Tobago Delegation, local hoteliers and tour service providers on the last day of WTM2018. **3)** Tourism Authority CEO Louis Lewis at the press conference, **4)** Mr Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips. Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation, High Commissioner Orville London **5)** Entertainer Yolanda Job-Thomas performed a medley of calypso and soca songs to the delight of attendees at the Tobago booth at WTM 2018. **Photos 2,4,5 courtesy Tobago Tourism Agency**

Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly Kelvin Charles, Secretary of Tourism Nadine Stewart-Phillips and Tobago Tourism Authority CEO Louis Lewis joined with the island's tourism stakeholders to launch the new Tobago brand when the 2018 World Travel Market opened at ExCeL in London, on Monday November 5.

The rebranding process, according to Lewis, "signals the start of a positive transition for Tobago; moving the island from its current position as a twin to our sister island, Trinidad" He noted that "we want Tobago to be a stand out destination in its own right and have used the island's unique character and features to guide our creative and messaging exploration".

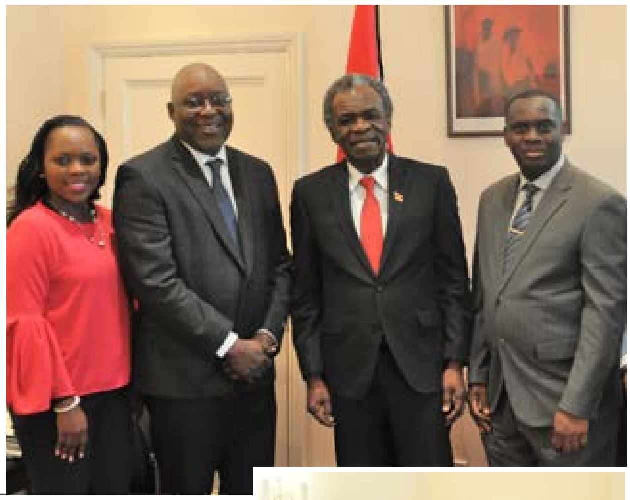
Lewis explained that an analysis of the relevant research revealed that "the island's lack of development, accommodation inventory and relatively low levels of commercialism which were initially seen as holding tourism back, were the island's greatest assets". This prompted the adoption of the new brand Tobago Beyond Ordinary, and portrays Tobago as "the unspoilt, untouched Caribbean island where the undiscovered waits around every corner".

In his statement at the press conference on November 5, Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles reported that the branding exercise will be supported by other major activities in Tobago. He revealed that Requests for Proposals had gone out for the construction of the new Terminal building at the Arthur N R Robinson airport, in Tobago; that negotiations are continuing on the proposed Sandals Resort on the South West coast of Tobago and that plans are well underway for the construction of a marina on the island. Charles described Tobago as "this unspoilt, untouched, waiting to be discovered piece of real estate, poised to offer that unforgettable, unbeatable and unparalleled experience". He invited the world to "come and see our unrivalled heritage, our matchless culture, our hospitable people, our mouthwatering culinary delights and our incomparable flora and fauna".

Secretary of Tourism Nadine Stewart-Phillips was equally upbeat on the impact of Tobago, at this year's World Travel Market. She reported that, during the three day trade show, discussions were held with Virgin Atlantic and British Airways, the two UK carriers providing airlift to the island; representatives of the PGA tour and other stakeholders. Stewart-Phillips also confirmed that Sunwing Tours will commence operations from December 2018, with regular weekly flights from Toronto, Canada.

The present thrust of the Tobago House of Assembly is in keeping with the Trinidad and Tobago Government's statement that tourism must play a pivotal role in the revitalisation of the economy. According to industry sources, Tobago is poised to make a significant contribution to the island's economy but if the objective is to be achieved, relevant strategies must be implemented, adequate resources must be made available and all sectors on the island must be prepared to make the adjustments that would ensure that Tobago's tourism can thrive and develop in the increasingly competitive market.

THA CHIEF SECRETARY CHARLES MEET HIGH COMMISSIONER LONDON

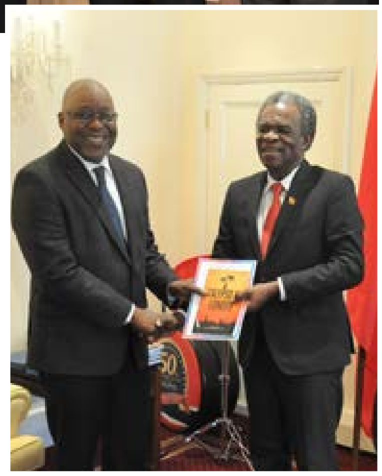


At right: THA Media Officer Avion Parks, Mr Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, High Commissioner Orville London and Kieron McDougall, Advisor to Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation, Nadine Stewart-Phillips

Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly Kelvin Charles paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London, at the London Mission on Thursday November 8. Charles was accompanied by THA Media Officer Avion Parks and Kieron McDougall, Advisor to Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation, Nadine Stewart-Phillips. Charles apologised for the absence of Secretary Stewart-Phillips whom he said was slightly under the weather, after a very hectic schedule of activities, during the 2018 World Travel Market.

Speaking after the meeting, London who preceded Charles as THA Chief Secretary, described the one hour discussion as "informal but highly informative and productive". Major focus was on the Tobago rebranding exercise and London said that the Mission will continue to collaborate with the Assembly in the achievement of its objectives, especially in the UK market. London said that he also took the opportunity to discuss the need to devise and implement strategies to leverage the tremendous potential of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in the United Kingdom. He said he stressed the need for closer and mutually beneficial relations between UK based organisations and the relevant government agencies, interest groups and other stakeholders in Tobago and the rest of the country.

Charles and his team returned to Tobago on Saturday November 10 but, according to London, they were supportive of the suggestions made during the courtesy call and he expected that there will be further communication and relevant follow up action, in the ensuing months.



Above: High Commissioner Orville London presents Mr Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly with a gift.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

On Sunday November 11, Heads of State in the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago joined millions around the world to commemorate the centenary of Armistice, marking one hundred years since the end of the First World War. Queen Elizabeth, 92, viewed the proceedings from a balcony overlooking the Cenotaph at Whitehall, as the Prince of Wales led the tribute. Among others laying wreaths were High Commissioners representing the 53 Commonwealth countries, including Trinidad and Tobago.

President Paula Mae Weekes and Prime Minister Keith Rowley led the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph at Memorial Park, Frederick Street, Port of Spain while Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles laid the first wreath, at James Park in Scarborough where Tobago commemorated the event.

United States President Donald Trump, President Vladimir Putin of Russia and Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, were among the 60 world leaders who joined French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris to mark the centenary, at the Arc de Triomphe.





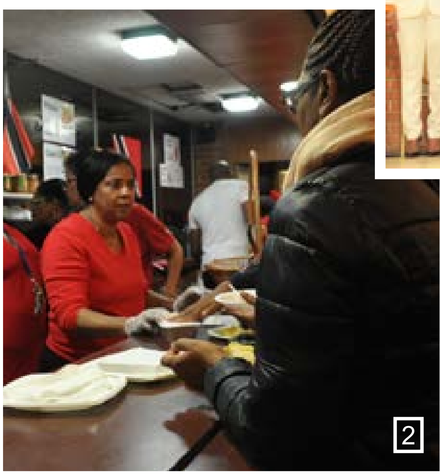




Above: Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley, Mrs Sharon Rowley and Minister of National Security, the Honourable Stuart Young at the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph at Memorial Park, Port of Spain. **Top left:** Scouts and Girl Guides at National Memorial Park, Port of Spain. **Photos: fb.com/OPMTT. Middle:** West Indian Association of Service Personnel world war verteran lays wreath on Remembrance Day in Brixton's Windrush Square. **Photos: PALAssociates: Lewis Patrick**. **At left:** Queen Elizabeth II and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier attend a National Service to mark the centenary of the Armistice at Westminster Abbey. **Photos: PA**

COMMONWEALTH FAIR 2018











Trinidad and Tobago's cuisine, alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages; its culture and its hospitality were highlighted when this country joined other Commonwealth nations for the 2018 Commonwealth Fair. Thousands of participants converged on the Kensington Town Hall on Saturday November 10, intent on experiencing the diversity of the Commonwealth and they were not disappointed. There was a steady stream of traffic to the booths, spread over three floors at the venue and the organisers are expecting a substantial return this year.

Trinidad and Tobago's culinary offerings reflected the diversity of our society and the response was so overwhelming that all dishes were sold out, within a few hours. Among those dishes were Tobago style "oil down" and "crab and dumplings", prepared by Ms Brigid London, wife of the High Commissioner; roti, coo coo and callaloo, pholourie, pelau, and stewed fish. High Commissioner Orville London said that he was pleased that Trinidad and Tobago was able to make a significant contribution to this worthy venture. He lauded "the voluntary efforts of nationals, including Tricia Jahim, Gerard Ali, Anne Husbands, Rosalind McMillan; Head of Chancery Darcyl Legall, Beverley Awonaya and other members of staff at the Mission; Wanis International Foods which sponsored the alcoholic drinks and all others who participated in this collaborative and highly successful activity".

Proceeds from the Commonwealth Fair are donated to the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund which provides financial assistance and other support to enable girls in over thirty countries to access secondary education and improve their life chances. In her key note address at the official opening ceremony, Ms Kim Simplis Barrow, spouse of Belize Prime Minister, Dean Barrow, spoke to "the tremendous potential within women and girls that can be unlocked through education and knowledge". She noted that while it could take two hundred years to close the generation gap between men and women, it is estimated that, with committed and consistent effort, the education gap could be closed, within thirteen years. She, therefore, urged all countries to redouble their efforts to ensure that girls are provided with enhanced opportunities to maximise their potential.

The Commonwealth Girls Eduction Fund which has been in existence for just over fifty years, is continuing its fund raising activities and interested donors can make contributions throughout the year.

1) HE Mrs Kim Simplis Barrow, Spouse of the Prime Minister of Belize and Special Envoy for Children and Women, Her Excellency High Commissioner Perla Perdomo, High Commissioner for Belize, Ms Nalina Paranavitane, CCL, Louisa Service OBE, Patron of the CCL, Dr Nabeel Goheer who is the Assistant Secretary-General at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Ms Roxanne St Clair, Chairperson of Commonwealth Countries League Education Fund, **2)** Mrs London takes orders from patron for the hot foods on sale; **3)** Mrs Beverley Awonaya and Mrs Donna Philip-Forde enjoying a sorrel Shandy Carib, **4)** Mr Michael Graham and Mr Jackson Dennie selling fruit punch to a patron, **5)** High Commissioner London with nationals, **6)** (seated second from left) Mr Sonny Blacks, (seated far right) Leslie Palmer MBE and Tobago Crusoe on guitar and other patrons.**7)** Mr Elston Baird, Immigration Attaché with Ms Zyanne Inniss.





RUDOLPH WALKER INTER-SCHOOL DRAMA AWARDS



Above: Rudolph Walker OBE addressing the attendees on stage, **Below:** High Commissioner London, Rudolph Walker OBE with RWiSDA winners. **Photos: RWiSDA**

Rudolph Walker is hoping to introduce his RWiSDA competition to Trinidad and Tobago, as a first step towards taking it International. The Drama Award competition which he created, has been running for seven years in the United Kingdom and has been held at the Theatre Royal Stratford, for the past three years. The competition is keen and rigorous as the students have to write and perform their own plays, in order to earn a place in the Grand Final. Each selected school gains longstanding benefits from the support of a celebrity actor who guides and mentors them through the process. According to one observer, "the competition enables young people to use their time, in a positive way. It offers an alternative to 'hanging around' after school. It can also build young people's confidence and self esteem". Walker believes that this approach could serve as a catalyst for the further development of the art form in Trinidad and Tobago.

In the meantime, interest among schools, especially in some of the marginalised districts in the United Kingdom, remains high. 2018 was another year of quality productions and after some laudable performances in the final, the prestigious award for Best Production was won by Haringey's, St Thomas More Catholic School. Their presentation, "Shackles" was an emotional piece, highlighting some of the negative aspects of slavery and the absence of women's rights during that period, with references to present day issues. They took home the RWiSDA Trophy which was designed and made in Trinidad & Tobago, by Gillian Bishop.



St Thomas More are no strangers to winners row. In 2013, they won, with celebrity actress Ellen Thomas (EastEnders), as their mentor. It was actor Michael Salami, best known for his role as Shane Sweeney in Hollyoaks and a first time RWiSDA mentor, who seemed both shocked and pleased with his school's result. Amaya Cottoy, also a St Thomas More's student, came away with the Best Actress Award.

Other awards included Best Actor, won by Khalid Omar from City Academy of Birmingham, for his performance in 'Time Slot'. This original comedy, exploring ideas for a new TV show, was enthusiastically received by the audience and Omar's performance was particularly outstanding. City Academy was mentored by Ashley Rice from afternoon TV Soap, Doctors.

Best Script went to Enfield's, Bishop Stopford School for 'We All Unite', which examined racial prejudice through the eyes of people of different ethnic backgrounds. Other schools participating in the final included, Forest Gate, Newham, with mentor/actor Ricky Norwood, aka FatBoy in EastEnders and Frederick Bremer, Waltham Forest, with mentor/actress Ellen Thomas.

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GERMAN ASSOCIATION (TNTGA)

On Saturday September 1st, 2018, the newly formed Trinidad and Tobago German Association, a.k.a. TnTGA, celebrated the 56th year of Trinidad and Tobago's Independence in Berlin, Germany. This was our first groundbreaking event and our introduction to the diaspora within Berlin, Germany and by extension, the world.





Above: A honorary certificate presented to one of the recipients by a TnTGA committee member; **At left:** Trinidad and Tobago display at the Independence Day event, **Below:** TnTA Committee members. **Photos courtesy TnTGa**

Who we are

We are a vibrant and energetic team comprising of young Trinidad and Tobago and German professionals. Our backgrounds and professions are extremely diverse and includes marketing, football coaching, biomedical sciences, tax advisory, yoga instruction, entrepreneurship, risk analysis, VIP services, human resources, editorial services, hospitality and even horseback riding! But our shared passion for T&T's heritage and culture brought us together and is exemplified by our group motto "Merging cultures, uniting people".

What we do

TnTGA represents a new generation filled with optimism and positivity to face new and existing challenges within the targeted communities. We are committed to working with all stakeholders in order to establish mutually beneficial collaborations. We recognise that there are countless opportunities where both nations can benefit from each other's resources in culture, education, sports, travel and music just to name a few. We envision working closely with public and private sectors across Trinidad and Tobago and Germany such as consulates, embassies and universities, to name a few, in an effort to provide support to T&T nationals with German interests and vice versa.

Our Inaugural Event

Throughout the history of the presence of Trinidad and Tobago nationals within Germany, and German nationals visiting Trinidad and Tobago, the culture has been expressed, shared and displayed in countless ways and by many from far and wide. In an effort to recognise such efforts being made, a group of fifteen



dedicated individuals were elected to be honoured at the TnTGA inaugural event. Each of these individuals in some form or fashion have been actively promoting and showcasing Trinbagonian culture and therefore it was only fitting that they be given the opportunity to share their stories and inspirations with the very enthusiastic and captive audience. The recipients included Trinbagonian and German nationals who were presented with an honorary certificate and garment pin displaying side by side German and Trinidad and Tobago flags.

The evening of festivities included a sumptuous buffet of "Trini" delicacies such as pelau, doubles, roti, pastelles and "Trini" rumpunch. Many guests stayed after the presentation to enjoy the true "Trini" atmosphere including people from around the country, of varying backgrounds who share a love for Trinbagonian culture. It was evidently a proud accomplishment not seen in almost as much as twenty years. Naturally there was calypso and soca music involved, and many guests stayed on to enjoy the atmosphere and the liming that are expected from a true T&T gathering in Germany.

The Future

It is in the best interest of TnTGA to encourage and enhance the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Germany and therefore every effort will be made to connect resources and work towards initiatives such as documentaries, educational programmes and exchange programmes including workshops, sports, culture, travel and business to name a few.

"Together we aspire, together we achieve" We would greatly appreciate all your support!

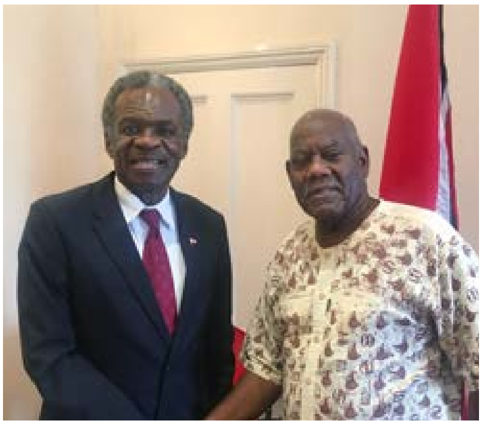
Stay connected and be a part of our journey!

Facebook.com/
TnTGermanAssociation
Instagram.com/
tntgermanassociation
Email: tntga2018@gmail.com

TnTGA
Merging cultures, uniting people

VISITING NATIONALS – PROFESSOR CUDJOE AND DR REMY MEET HIGH COMMISSIONER





Above: High Commissoiner Orville London with Dr Dela-Marie Dillon-Gbekor, Orville London and Dr Maria Remy;
At right: Orville London and Selwyn Cudjoe

Two outstanding nationals who were visiting the United Kingdom, paid courtesy calls on High Commissioner Orville London at the High Commission's Office in Belgrave Square, on Monday July 23. Professor Selwyn Cudjoe, Professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College and author of a number of books, including "Beyond Boundaries"and "A Just and Moral Society", participated in a wide ranging, hour long discussion with the High Commissioner, in the early afternoon.

Later in the day, the High Commissioner was joined by Dr Maria Remy, former Chief Medical Officer at the Scarborough Regional Hospital and her niece, Dr Dela-Marie Dillon-Gbekor, who is practising in the United Kingdom. Since her retirement, Dr Remy has been involved in the development of the Crossroads Programme which is geared towards the instillation of positive values and coping skills, among students in eight of the nine secondary schools in Tobago. Dr Remy is also a Certified Teacher/Trainer/Coach with The John Maxwell Team which has organised public forums and training sessions in Tobago.

BRIGHTER FUTURES IN WEIGHTLIFTING



Pictured: (L-R) Ms Ramsay-Overall President of Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Weightlifting Federation (TTOWF), High Commissioner Orville London, Mr Laurence Carbon, General Secretary of TTOWF and Dr Irani Chief Representative of International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).

UK based trainer Laura Denise Ramsay-Overall has delivered the first ever British weightlifting accredited qualification in Trinidad and Tobago. The initiative saw the Trinidad and Tobago Weightlifting Association (TTOWF) commissioning Zodiac Arts, a registered global charity company which operated in partnership with British Weightlifting (BWL), and was supported by the International Weightlifting Association.

The aims and objectives of the course which ran over two days at the Youth Training Centre (YTC), in Arouca, included to "develop the learner's ability to perform safe weightlifting techniques". Ms Ramsay-Overall said that the "young lads who had been chosen, showed great enthusiasm and willingness to learn". Successful participants have received Level 2 Olympic certification and will be registered with British Weightlifting. They could eventually become members of the British Weightlifting Association, as they pursue further participation in the sport.



Laura-Denise Ramsay-Overall, achieved her status as an international referee with the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). Her outstanding achievement means she can now officiate at competitions on the world stage under the auspices of the IWF.

Her double achievement also means she is the first female referee from Trinidad and Tobago and the first at an international level to represent Trinidad and Tobago on the world stage.

ANSEL WONG MAKES LONDON AWESOME



Pictured: Ansel Wong

Trinidad and Tobago national, Ansel Wong has been included in a list of 50 distinguished individuals and organisations, deemed to have contributed most significantly, in "making London awesome". To mark it's 50th anniversary, Time Out magazine has "picked the 50 Londoners helping to shape our city's landscape". The Time Out release states, "we are celebrating some of the greatest; the people who culturally, make London, London. These are the groundbreakers, the change makers, the exciting upstarts and the stalwarts of our city". It continued, "While they all might work in different fields, each one is making our city an awesome place to be - sometimes against the odds".

Time Out reported that "since moving to London in the 1960s, Ansel Wong has been advocating for black people in the UK. He has set up theatre groups and helped form the Elimu Carnival Band, which has performed at Notting Hill Carnival since 1980. Wong also chairs the advisory council that organised this year's event. Along with his NHC work, Wong helped set up Black History Month in 1987".

Other noted contributors on the list include actor Idris Elba, London Mayor Sadiq Khan, comedian Lolly Adefobe, artist and film maker Steve McQueen and the Black Girl Fest founders Paula Akpan and Nicole Crentsil.

NHC PIONEERS 6TH ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS





The annual Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers Community Festival took place on Sunday 12th August 2018. This year the festival moved to a bigger venue at Horniman's Park, Kensal Road, London, W10.

This year marks the 6th Anniversary of the event under the distinguished patronage of the High Commissioners of Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica. The festival continued in its tradition of a family event and paid tribute to Duke Vin the Trojan and "Hail Windrush 70", marking 70 years since the Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury and the beginning of the Caribbean diaspora.

Headline entertainment was eclectic as the Notting Hill community itself. Live on stage were Victor Romero Evans, Carroll Thompson, Janet Kay (celebrating 40 years in the music business), Brit Funk Association (jazz, funk, urban and dance rhythms), King Socrates (Calypso King of St Kitts & Nevis), Afro Revolution Band, Mangrove Steelband, Zoe Devlin Love, Cameron Pierre, Reggae Star Factor Winners, Portobello Live Choir, Troy Ellis, Nesca Emmanuel, Dexter Joseph (Pan Soloist) and KJ. Special guests were Sir Coxsone Outernational and One Love with PAs by Nilo (Island), Webby J, D'Alberto, Bubbles and Ras Izak. DJs Smokey Joe and Nzinga Soundz.

Notting Hill Carnival continues to play a significant role in the community around the 'Grove' and Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers, which was established in 2013, has helped to reinforce the fabric of that community, by paying tribute to those who contributed to making Notting Hill Carnival the spectacular success that it is today.

In 1973 Leslie Palmer MBE, rubber-stamped the blue print for present-day Notting Hill Carnival and today it is his vision that has established the Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers, to ensure that those who laid and shaped the foundations of carnival are not forgotten. Palmer himself was honoured for his visionary and community work when he was awarded an MBE in 2017.

Notting Hill Carnival Pioneers is supported by the Arts Council of England, Carnival Village, West Way Trust, City Living Local Life, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council and Maestro7.

At left: Calypsonian D'Alberto with Cyril Kharmai performs at 6th Annual NHC Pioneers Community Festival, **At right:** Sterling Betancourt MBE, FRSA recieved an award from the NHC Pioneers Community. **Photos: nhcarnivalpioneers**

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

2018 LONDON CALYPSO TENT – **CALYPSO MONARCH COMPETITION RESULTS**

The finals of the 2018 London Calypso Tent - Calypso Monarch Competition took place on Thursday 24th August, in front of a packed audience at the Tabernacle, Powis Square. Dignitaries present at the event which is hosted by the Association of British Calypsonians, included calypsonian Stacey Sobers and chutney queen Drupatee. The results as follows:

1. De Admiral - *'The Windrush Generation'*
2. Rev B - *'Raise yuh Head*
3. Sheldon Skeete - *'The Road to Brexit'*



Pictured: The 2018 UK Calypso Monarch Jeff 'De Admiral' Hinds

MAS ON THE ROAD RESULTS

CATEGORY – BEST CHILDREN'S COSTUME BAND

1. Mahogany Carnival Band (91 points)
2. Heritage Social Arts (81 points)
3. Soca Massive (79 points)

CATEGORY – BEST DUTTY MAS BAND

1. Abir (94.5 points)
2. Chocolate Nation (41.2 points)
3. Island Mas (39.6 points)

CATEGORY – BEST ADULT COSTUME BAND

1. Mahogany Carnival Band (94.5 points)
2. Island Mas (85 points)
3. Tropical Isles (83.3 points)

2018 BAS/NHCL UK NATIONAL STEELBAND PANORAMA COMPETITION

BEST YOUTH STEELBAND (21 AND UNDER)

1. London All Stars: *"Love Is In The Air"*, arranged by Frank Rollock
1. Stardust Steel Orchestra: *"Sweet Fuh Days"*, arranged by Delphina James and Justin Richardson
3. St Michael & All Angels Steel Orchestra: *"Unsung Hero"*, arranged by Alfred 'Freddy' Totesaut

PANORAMA 2018

1. Mangrove Steel Band: *"Hulk"*, arranged by Andre White
2. Ebony Steel Band: *"Hulk"*, arranged by Duvone Stewart
3. Metronome Steel Orchestra: *"Ignorance"*, arranged by Leroy Clarke



Photos - fb.com/LdnAllStars | Pictured: London All Stars



Photos - fb.com/MangroveSteelband | Pictured: Mangrooves

bit.ly/UKPano2018-Mangrove WATCH THE VIDEO

For further information the Nhcl Mas Judging Criteria and other masband and steelband placements in the various competition categories such as J'ouvert Bomb, Traditional, Conventional, People's Choice and Best Brazilian Band, please visit: https://www.facebook.com/TheLondonNottingHillCarnivalOfficial



Pictured: Samantha 'Sunshine' Bryant and Nadine 'Nadiva' Bryant, 2018 ACUK Groovy Soca Monarchs. **Photo - fb.com/sam.nadz**

UK GROOVY SOCA MONARCH 2018

On Friday, 17th August, the ACUK Groovy Soca Monarch competition took place at the Carnival Village, Powis Square, London. The prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were presented by Josephine Torrel-Brown, chief adjudicator of the International Soca Monarch competition in Trinidad & Tobago. This year's there were special guests performances by Stacey Sobers and chutney queen Drupatee. The results are as follows:

1. Sunshine and Nadiva - *'I Got It*
2. Deevin - *'Front Page*
3. McKenzie Hart - *'The Mix'*

The High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London congratulates all participants on their outstanding performances and unique contributions to the success of the Notting Hill Carnival and its associated events.

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2018 PICTORIAL



















Pictured: A selection of masqueraders crossing the Judging point on Sunday and Monday.

NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL 2018 PICTORIAL

















Above: Nostalgia Steelband a traditional 'pan-around-neck' band crossed the Judging point. **Photos courtesy Notting Hill Carnival Ltd**

RUDOLPH WALKER HONOURED

There were more accolades for veteran actor Rudolph Walker when he received the Lifetime British Soap Award for Outstanding Achievement, as voted by his peers. The award was presented by Baroness Floella Benjamin, another of Trinidad and Tobago's highly acclaimed nationals. Reminding the audience that Rudolph Walker was one of the first leading black actors to appear on British television, Baroness Benjamin described him as "a truly inspirational figure".

Addressing the diverse audience, after he received the award at the Hackney Empire in East London, Walker had some special advice and encouragement for the youths when he said "for all those young people whom I have bumped into, over the years, and the ones I haven't… up and down the country, in the inner cities where there are problems; if I can achieve this, so can you".

Rudolph is best-known for his potrayal of Patrick Trueman in the popular Soap, EastEnders.



Above: Rudolph Walker OBE

He has also appeared in theatre and in several movies, including 10 Rillington Place, King Ralph, and Let Him Have It.

Rudolph was born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1939 and moved to England in 1960 to pursue a career in acting. The popular comedy series Love Thy Neighbour (1972-76) made him very famous as it was shown around the world and was particularly enjoyed in Trinidad and Tobago.

SIPARIA DELTONES YOUNGSTERS AT THE TABERNACLE



When Akinola Sennon, Executive Director of the Deltones Institute, questioned the audience at the Tabernacle on the evening of Saturday 21 September, there was overwhelming consensus that pan was not in danger and that, on the contrary, the national instrument would be in talented hands, for the foreseeable future.

Under Sennon's expert and energetic guidance, the Deltones Institute youngsters had just delivered on their commitment "to share their dynamic, organic and virtuosic amalgam of Calypso and jazz". Featuring pannists as young as five years, the Institute band enthralled the small, but highly engaged audience with a range of popular selections, interspersed with snippets of information on the history and struggles of the ancestors.

Sennon explained that "the Deltones Institute of Steel Drums and Music is located in the culturally rich village of Siparia and has a 300 member body which studies and develops the unique sound of the steelpan". The Institute's orchestra, he said, "tours as the Cousemeh Caravan, a fusion of art, culture and music rooted in the African diaspora, highlighting the people and history of the West Indies".

The tour by the 35 member contingent was organised, in collaboration with the British Association for Steelpan, with major sponsorship from the Prime Minister's Sports and Culture Fund. High Commissioner Orville London said that he was "impressed by the youngsters who, despite some initial challenges on the tour, were able to recover and deliver a performance which would have done credit to any of the more highly acclaimed, adult bands in Trinidad and Tobago".

Above: HE Orville London with Deltones Institute Steel Orchestra, **Below:** a cross section of the Deltones branded memorabilia which were on sale.





LAUNCH OF PANOMUNDO 2: PAN WORLDWIDE

The six year journey of film maker Keith Morton and producer Charysse Tia Harper, over four continents, researching and chronicling the birth, growth and spread of the steelpan, continued at the Tabernacle in London, on September 9, with the UK premiere of the Documentary film, Panomundo Part 2: Pan Worldwide. The film treats with the global influence of the steelpan and its spread to the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Nigeria, China and Japan. It is the sequel to "Evolution" which traced the birth and development of the steelpan, primarily in Trinidad and Tobago. Panomundo is dedicated to the recently deceased Dr Ellie Manette and features the exploits of other steelpan legends, including Sterling Betancourt MBE, Lennox "Boogsie" Sharpe, Russell Henderson MBE, and Gerald Forsyth OBE.

Morton explained that the main objective behind the production of the films, was to "extend the frontiers of the aesthetic pan experience whilst simultaneously, being respectful to its origins". He said that, "by virtue of its topical subject matter and pertinence, the two films go some way in historically explaining, celebrating and indeed, strengthening the paramount significance that has been and is, steelpan in its cultural birthplace and then, beyond".

Graham Thomas, a Trinidad and Tobago national and retired teacher who was closely associated with the project, is particularly interested in the film's potential to educate and sensitise. On a visit to High Commissioner Orville London, at the London Mission, he said that the story of pan and its evolution must be told to the children of the nation. They must know of the contributions of recently deceased Dr Ellie Manette and the other pan pioneers, including Sterling Betancourt, not only to the growth of the steelpan in Trinidad and Tobago but to the evolution of music in the United States and other parts of the world.

Meanwhile, Morton is hoping to engage government agencies, steelpan stakeholders, the private sector and other interested parties in discussions that could move the films to "a more central position of cultural relevance in Trinidad and Tobago".



Above: Ms Lee-Ann Goddard, Ms Trinidad and Tobago UK 2018 with (L-R) Mr Robert Walker Commercial Manager, GraceKennedy Ltd (Ghana) and songstress Jamima Douglas. **Photo courtesy Ms Trinidad and Tobago UK**

LEE-ANN GODDARD WINS MS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO UK 2018 TITLE

Lee-Ann Goddard was crowned Ms Trinidad and Tobago UK, after an intense but highly entertaining and enlightening competition at the Polish Centre in Hammersmith, London, on Saturday September 29. Although only four contestants participated, members of the audience were enthusiastic in their approval of the quality of the costumes and evening gowns, the poise of the contestants and most noticeably, the confidence with which they communicated their views on topical issues and provided relevant information on communities within Trinidad and Tobago.

Each contestant represented a specific goegraphical area of the country, with Goddard extolling the positive attributes of Couva where she pursued her secondary school education. Other contestants were Tinesha John representing Tobago, Fabbianne Howard who was assigned Woodbrook and Carla Jean Lares representing San Fernando. The three hour show featured performances from some high profile artistes, including soprano Anne Fridal; De Admiral who is the reigning AC UK Calypso Monarch; 14 year old violinist, Jada Marsh and 2006 Ms UK winner Chandani Persaud, a classical Indian dancer.

Goddard was crowned by High Commissioner Orville London who, in his earlier remarks, lauded main organiser Angela Cox and her team for the commitment and resilience displayed in "bringing off yet another show, despite financial challenges and other constraints". He said that the competition served to remind, to educate and to sensitise all nationals in the United Kingdom, especially the youths, about their homeland. He appealed for support from all sectors to ensure that the "Ms Trinidad and Tobago UK production will remain on the social calendar, in this country".

List of Awards and Special Prizes:

- Carla Jean Lares, Miss San Fernando - Runner-up, Carivog Model International and Miss Elegance
- Tinieshia John, Miss Tobago UK - Miss Amity, Best Project and caribArtProject winner
- Fabienne Howard - Miss Photogenic
- Jada Marsh - Talented Teen 2018 Award
- Alafair Celestine and Jemima Douglas - Mrs Frances Alleyne Award
- Donna Philip-Forde - Committee Award



Photo courtesy Nina Baden-Semper

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF KOFOWOROLLA JUNE ESME BADEN-SEMPER (1933 – 2018)

Written by **PROFESSOR GUS JOHN**

Condolences to Nina, Terrence and June's entire family and greetings to all who are gathered here to celebrate her life and mourn her passing. Special greetings to those who have travelled from far and wide to be with us today. I want to acknowledge messages of condolence and warmest best wishes from Yvonne Brewster, Reverend Patricia Stephens and many others who, regrettably, are unable to join us.

Kofoworolla June Esme Baden-Semper was born in La Brea, South Trinidad on 20 November 1933. 'Kofoworolla' is a Yoruba name meaning 'wealthy in all ways'.

She was the first of eight children, four girls and four boys, born to Inskip and Una Baden-Semper. June attended Bishop Anstey High School for Girls and at age 19 she left Trinidad and Tobago to come to England to begin what blossomed as an illustrious career in nursing and hospital administration. Her arrival in England in the early 1950s numbered her among what is today popularly known as the Windrush generation.

June excelled both in clinical practice and in nursing management and hospital administration. Operating theatre nursing became her specialism, to the extent that in 1974, she was put in charge of phasing out the Operating Department at the old Royal Free Hospital in Grays Inn Road and was centrally involved in the commissioning of the Operating Department at the new Royal Free in its present location, Pond Street, Hampstead.

In 1976, she was appointed Nursing Officer at the Middlesex Hospital in the West End and in 1978, she was appointed Senior Nursing Officer in the Operating Department at the Royal Free, a post she held until 1985. In December 1985 she was awarded an MA in that subject by the Polytechnic of North London.

In 1986,June was appointed interim director of the Pagnell Street Youth and Community Centre in Deptford, thus working in collaboration with the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) Youth Service, Lewisham Borough Council, Lewisham Council for Community Relations, Joe and Sybil Phoenix and Ros Howells (now Baroness Howells of St David's). I worked with June and the Phoenix's then, in my capacity as Assistant Education Officer and Head of Community Education (with responsibility for the Youth Service and Adult Education) in the ILEA.

I was to work with June again a few years later when, while Director of Education in the London Borough of Hackney, I became Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Talawa Theatre Company. June was a very active and hands on member of that board and a tower of strength to Yvonne Brewster, Founder and Artistic Director of Talawa. Her passionate commitment to opening up opportunities for young people, which made her contribution to the Pagnell Street Centre so significant, found expression in her practical support for the education programmes we ran at Talawa, both as part of individual theatre productions and as summer schools. June both helped to organise those and to give active support to the facilitators and programme leaders, as well as to the young people themselves.

June was a life-long friend of the late Pearl Connor –Mogotsi, her husband Edric and their daughter, the late Geraldine Connor. Even as a health practitioner and administrator, June was never far from the cultural activism and theatrical productions in which those pioneers of black theatre and promoters of the careers of black artists were involved. It was no surprise, therefore, that Aunty June played a very crucial role in supporting Geraldine Connor in bringing her epic production, Carnival Messiah, to the stage both in West Yorkshire (Playhouse 1999 and Harewood House 2007) and in Trinidad (Queen's Hall 2003 & 2004).

June was a Trini to the bone. Throughout her 65 years in the UK, she worked closely with the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission and with the High Commissions of other Caribbean countries. She ensured that even when her famous galas were organised under the aegis of the T & T High Commission, the entire Caribbean diplomatic corps were invited to attend. She was a renowned flower arranger, well known for her vibrant tropical flower arrangements, which she often combined with catering for weddings, anniversaries, High Commission functions and other events. She exhibited at various flower shows, including the Chelsea Flower Show with the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission. June also organised art exhibitions of Caribbean artists at various galleries, invariably producing souvenir catalogues of those paintings and other artistic creations.

We give thanks for her life, for her life's work and for making the world a better place and striving to make us better people, just by being...June! Who could ask for more? May the Ancestors welcome her with fanfare. May she have the biggest Trini lime, till kingdom come, with Pearl and Eric and Geraldine and John La Rose and Wayne Berkeley and Pat Bishop and Jessica Huntley and all those other giant beacons that shine in the galaxy, lightening our path.

GLASS HALF EMPTY

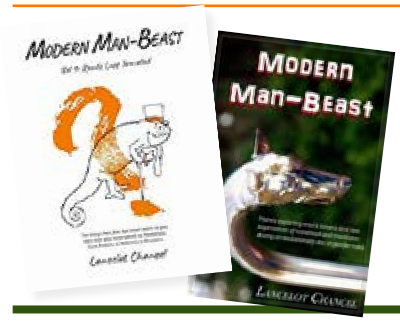
Written by **LANCELOT CHANCEL**

I don't understand how to stop
Loving what was much more
Or understand my emotional soup
Brewed by those moments so sour
There are only two sides to any story
But my story must now be stored?
All seek to unearth her sadness
Yet I must try to reveal more?

Half of me has been ripped away
I'm over exposed and I bleed
The world says I should be a wall
My heart's comfort isn't a need.
Do they take me out for sunshine?
Who wakes me up at dawn?
Who pops down the shops for me?
Do they ask if I'm settled or warm?

Would they even listen to my truth?
How much I, was hurt on that day
That fights take two to continue on
That I was never the one to stray
But I've had a part in this end
I have hurt others and been hurt more
I have fought taut venomous battles
And we've each tallied our own score

Alas, I am not the victor
The victor is now this void
That consumes and shadows each day
As our conflict did with noise
But I'm droning on about nothing
My Old burdens aren't what you seek
But I always appreciate you listening
…So; the same time again next week?



'Glass Half Empty' was taken from Lancelot Chancel's Illustrated Poetry Book *MODERN MAN - BEAST, Vol 1: Roads Less Travelled* - The things men feel, but never admit to you, they may also never admit to themselves. From Puberty to Paternity in 30 poems.

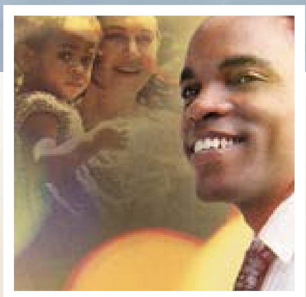
Lancelot Chancel is a Tobago Artist & Poet. Experienced Sketch Artist with a penchant for political satire. Skilled in Detailed Caricatures, Acrylic painting, and Poetry, he also occasionally dabbles in photography.

TRIBUTE TO A HERO



A former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom is the subject of a biopic which was launched recently, in Trinidad and Tobago. The film, "HERO: Inspired by the Extraordinary Life and Times of Ulric Cross", tells the story of one of the country's most accomplished contributors.

Cross who did service during the Second World War, is recognised as the most decorated Caribbean national to serve in the Royal Air Force. When the war ended, he went on to study law and was called to the Bar in 1949. After stints in Trinidad andTobago and the United Kingdom, Cross took his legal skills to Africa where he served in top legal positions in the Republic of the Cameroon and Tanzania. He was a part of the Pan African Movement and acted as advisor to both President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.



Pictured: Promotional images from the film 'HERO'. **Photos: www.fb.com/HERO4ALLTIME**

Lisa Wickham and Anne Marie Stewart are directors of the film which is produced by Frances Ann Solomon. The international cast includes national Nickoll Salcedo, Joseph Marcel who played the role of the butler in the popular sitcom, Fresh Prince of Bel Air and Ghanaian born, British actor Eric Kofi Abrefa.

Cross who died in October 2013, aged 96, was High Court judge in Trinidad and Tobago from 1971 and was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 1979. He was High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom from 1990 to 1993 and is, along with the country's first High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Baron Learie Constantine, among the many high profile nationals to have served in that capacity.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN T&T



Pictured: Las Cuevas Beach. **Photo:** TDC

LAS CUEVAS, TRINIDAD

A scenic drive along the north coast road will bring you to Las Cuevas, named for the small caves that bound both sides of this spectacular bay. A world within a world, apart from the colourful pirogues at the small fishing village along the east side, there is the sleepy Cuaraguate River that flows in the west end, the leafy sand runners and almond trees nearby and steep cliffs that make the miles of bleached sand and blue-green waters a wonderful discovery.





BUCCOO POINT, TOBAGO

Most famous for the weekly steelband show, live performances (called Sunday School), and Goat Racing during the Easter Holidays, it is also a scenic spot for swimming, horseback riding or to simply enjoy the beautiful sunsets.

PIRATES BAY, TOBAGO

At the north eastern tip of Tobago is a sea front spot that is remote and mysterious. A beach that is loved by all who visit. This sheltered bay was supposedly a hideout for roving pirates. Today, it is one of the most popular beaches on the north end of the island

Excerpts from Ins and Outs of Trinidad and Tobago 2018 Magazine

Middle: Snorkling at Buccoo Point,Tobago
At left: Pirates Bay, Tobago

TOBAGO STUDENTS TO SHARE INSIGHTS FROM UK TRIP



Above: (seated L-R) Mr Julien J. Skeete, Officer of the Legislature, Youth Programme Coordinator, Dr. Denise Tsoiafatt Angus, Presiding Officer and High Commissioner Orville London with Tobago House of Assembly Legislature contigent.

Below from left: Marcus Woods of the Legislature raised points during the Question and Answer segment, Ms Kennice Mapp of Harmon School of Seventh Day Adventist receives a token from High Commissioner London and Mrs Lisa-Marie Griffith of Bishop's High School signing the guestbook.







After their highly informative trip to the United Kingdom from September 7 to 14, the student representatives from secondary schools throughout Tobago, made a commitment to share their experiences and insights with the widest possible audience when they returned home. The commitment was made when a 28 member contingent paid a courtesy call on High Commissioner Orville London at the London Mission in Belgrave Square, on Thursday September 13.

Presiding Officer in the Tobago House of Assembly Dr Denise Tsoiafatt Angus, Clerk of the House Sharon Irvine-Combie, Officers of the Legislature, Youth Programme Coordinator Julien Skeete, joined the students and their teachers, for the highly interactive, two hour session at the Mission. The discussions focused on a number of topical issues. including the impact of Brexit on Trinidad and Tobago and the rest of the Caribbean, the role of the London Mission, the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora in the United Kingdom and the challenges and opportunities in the areas of education, trade, investment and tourism.

The visit to the London Mission climaxed a one week tour of the United Kingdom, an Initiative of the Tobago House of Assembly Legislature, with major sponsorship from the National Lotteries Control Board. Among the highlights of the tour were a visit to Jersey, an island off the southern coast of England. Presiding Officer Tsoiafatt Angus said that the Jersey visit was particularly rewarding, as the students were not only able to observe the operations in the Jersey Parliament but were able to compare the system of government and the level of autonomy enjoyed by the island, with the proposals for the amendment to the present Tobago House of Assembly Act. The group also visited the British Parliament where they met with parliamentarians from the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They also witnessed both Houses in session and one of the students said that he was particularly impressed by the intensity of the Prime Minister's Question Time, during the House of Commons sitting.

Reports coming out of Tobago indicated that the students were already involved in a debriefing session and are now discussing strategies to determine the most effective means of communicating their experience and insights with their peers. The Legislature is also planning to organise a symposium involving all the students who had participated in the trips to the United Kingdom, over the past three years.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS





At left: The city of Port of Spain at night
Above: The Port Authority Docks in Port of Spain

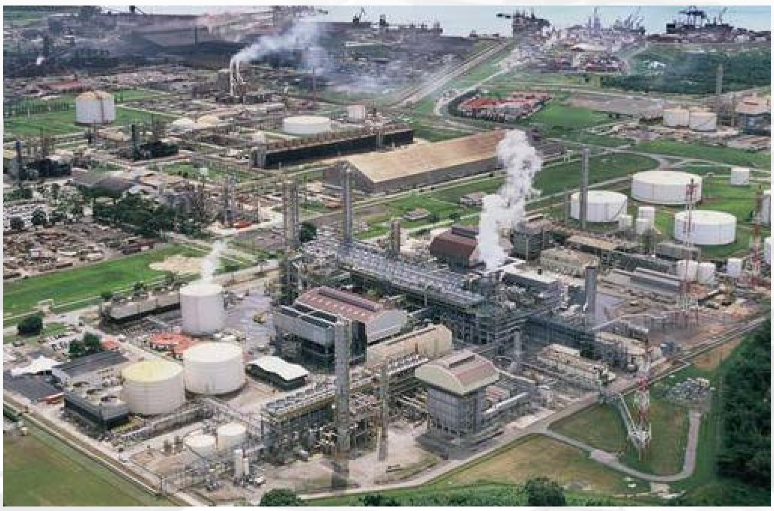
Trinidad and Tobago continues to be an advanced and dynamic country in the English-speaking Caribbean. It is well known for its strategic location, competitive energy prices, highly skilled workforce and attractive incentives. With its rich heritage and blend of cultural influences, Trinidad and Tobago is the preferred location for business and investment.

Pillar IV of Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy, also known as Vision 2030, prioritized the building of globally competitive businesses in Trinidad and Tobago, as a major element in the transformation of the economy away from oil and gas. To achieve this goal, the government has embarked on several initiatives to promote diversification into the following sectors: agro -processing; aviation, creative industries, maritime, ICT, manufacturing, food and beverage, tourism, fish and fish processing and financial services.

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

Trinidad and Tobago places importance on deepening and improving relations with regional and international trading partners. The country has recently signed on to the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), joining more than 100 other member states. This Agreement requires the implementation of measures that would, among other things, expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods, at the border.

Also being pursued is the implementation of the Istanbul Convention to help improve the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago. Implementation of the Convention would allow Trinidad and Tobago to benefit from the ATA Carnet which is an international customs and excise document that allows goods that will be re-exported out of Trinidad and Tobago within 12 months, to clear customs without paying duties and import taxes. This facility would be especially beneficial to firms in several sectors and, in particular, those in the creative industries. In film production, for example, foreign film crews would now be able to ship their equipment and machinery for filming into Trinidad and Tobago and benefit from immediate duty free treatment. This will undoubtedly improve the attractiveness of Trinidad and Tobago as a production destination to international production houses, giving the country international exposure and appeal.



Pictured: Ariel view of Pt Lisas Industrial Estate, Trinidad

Improving compliance with International Standards

A National Quality Policy (NQP) for Trinidad and Tobago was developed to create an enabling policy environment to guide the strengthening and reform of the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI). The National Quality Policy will ensure that the National Quality Infrastructure meets the requirements of the public and private sectors of Trinidad and Tobago, the global requirements of trade, the environment and the health and safety of consumers.

Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window

This system, also known as TTBizLinK, has transformed the way business is done. TTBizLink now provides 46 trade and business-related e-services, across 24 unique agencies from seven (7) ministries, in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and other stakeholders. As at August 2018, there were 3,031 local and regional companies and 9,408 persons registered and accessing the service.

Trade Agreements

Trinidad and Tobago has trade agreements as a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as bilateral agreements with a number of trading partners. These Agreements facilitate access to regional and international markets of over 900 million people. The Government has negotiated a number of trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Cuba, Dominican Republic, The European Union and a number of other countries. A number of Bilateral Investment Treaties and Cooperation Agreements with countries such as Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, China, Germany and Spain, have also been negotiated. Our geographical proximity, shared legacies and common culture have nurtured and continue to foster a very strong relationship with our CARICOM partners. This is reflected in our mutually beneficial trade and businesses relations.

Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks

Trinidad and Tobago is currently implementing a Special Economic Zones



Pictured: Methanol production in Pt Lisas

(SEZs) Policy that will revamp the current regime and guide the growth and expansion of the SEZs across Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to restructuring the SEZ Regime, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is also focused on the development and tenanting of the following industrial parks:

The Tamana InTech Park

As the Caribbean's largest science and technology park, the Tamana InTech Park is the focal point for advanced industries that bring together innovation, high value products and services, and premium quality investments.

Phoenix Park Industrial Estate

This park targets firms in the areas of high-value and light manufacturing, logistics/ warehousing, and emerging industries.

The Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park

The facility will allow for the processing of raw materials and intermediate products that originate from agriculture, forestry and fisheries; the manufacture of food products and the conversion of fresh produce into semi-processed raw material or processed products; the manufacture of beverages, wine and the blending of spirits; and facilities for the canning, bottling and freezing of finished products.

Piarco AeroPark

Piarco AeroPark offers unique investment opportunities in areas such as maintenance overhaul and repair; airport hotel; bonded warehousing; office complex; car rentals; services industries; light industry; international trade; indoor and outdoor entertainment; duty-free shopping; and meeting and conference facilities.

Competitive Advantage

Trinidad and Tobago has significant competitive advantage in terms of its minimum labour wage, water and electricity rates and geographical location(below the hurricane belt). It is also situated between the Americas and with a nearshore advantage - just over 3.3 hours to Miami and 40 direct daily flights to major international cities, Additionally, the infrastructure ranking on the Global Competitiveness Index for Trinidad and Tobago puts us at 54 out of 140 countries.

With these key developments ongoing, Trinidad and Tobago remains as the ideal location to do business.

The Mission wishes to invite submissions from the Diaspora on various topics which may include short stories, poems and other interesting tidbits on life here and back home for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Email: **hclondonPACT@foreign.gov.tt**



A TASTE OF HOME

MOUTHWATERING RECIPES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

COCONUT BAKE



Ingredients

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 tbs brown sugar
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 2 tsp instant yeast
- 4 1/2 cups all purpose flour or bread flour
- 1 cup freshly made coconut milk
- 1/4 cup freshly grated coconut

Preparation
Prep Time: 20 minutes | Bake Time: 20 minutes | Serves 4

Method:

1. Warm coconut milk to about 120f.
2. Place flour, yeast, salt and brown sugar into a work bowl.
3. Add butter and rub it into the flour until the mixture resembles fine crumbs.
4. Add shredded coconut and mix.
5. Pour in enough coconut milk to make a firm dough. If more liquid is needed add a little water.
6. Turn dough out onto a floured surface and knead lightly until smooth. Divide dough into 2 pieces and roll each piece into an 8-inch circle, prick with a fork and place onto baking trays.
7. Let rest for 20 minutes and bake in a preheated 400F oven for 15 to 20 minutes

The Multi-Cultural Cuisine of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean - Naparima Girls' High School Cookbook (Updated and revised version)



COCONUT SWEET BREAD

Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups finely grated coconut
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp ground cloves
- 1 egg
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup glace cherries, chopped, green and red
- 1/4 cup mixed peel
- 1/4 cup currants

Method:

1. Sugar syrup and brown sugar to finish the bread
2. Combine coconut with 1/2 cup milk, beat eggs and add.
3. Combine flour with, baking powder, sugar and spices, add butter and combine to a crumbly texture.
4. Add coconut mixture and stir well, add a little more milk if needed to make a soft dough.
5. Add dried fruits, and stir.
6. Divide mixture among 2 bread pans about 8 inches by 4 inches.
7. Sprinkle tops with sugar.
8. Bake for 50 to 60 minutes until a wooden pick comes out clean for large, or 30 to 40 for small
9. Combine 2 tsp brown sugar with 1 tsp warm water, stir to dissolve then brush onto bread and return to oven briefly.

Makes 2

From Wendy Rahamut Recipes



KURMA

Ingredients

Serves 4



- ½ cup or 4 oz. firm margarine
- 1 lb or 4 cups flour
- 4 tbsp condensed milk
- 1 cup oil for deep frying
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- ½ cup water

Method:

1. Rub margarine into flour until crumbly.
2. Add milk and enough water to form a stiff dough
3. Roll out to approx..1/3 inch thickness and cut into strips of 3 inches x 1/3 inches
4. Deep fry until crisp and golden brown
5. Combine sugar and water and boil until thickened (until it spins a thread).
6. Pour syrup over kurma, turning continuously and until syrup crystallizes

The Multi-Cultural Cuisine of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean - Naparima Girls' High School Cookbook (Updated and revised version)

FRIED BAKE

Ingredients

Serves 8



- 1 tbsp shortening
- 4 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- Vegetable oil for frying
- 4 cups all purpose flour

Method:

1. Combine flour, salt, baking powder and sugar in a mixing bowl.
2. Add the shortening and rub into flour until mixture resembles fine crumbs.
3. Add enough water just to make a soft dough.
4. Knead on a floured surface for about 5 minutes.
5. Rest flour for 30 minutes.
6. Divide dough into two pieces and divide each piece into 12 pieces.
7. Rest dough for another five minutes, and then roll out each piece to about three inches in diameter.
8. Heat vegetable oil in a deep frying pan and fry bakes in hot oil making sure that they are covered in oil. Turn and fry until fully ballooned or puffed.
9. Remove and drain.
10. Serve hot.

Makes 24 bakes

EVENTS ROUND UP



Pictured: A soldier salutes the African and Caribbean War Memorial in Brixton's Windrush Square, London on Remembrance Day. **Photos: PALAssociates: Lewis Patrick**

UPCOMING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY 26TH DECEMBER
BOXING DAY

TUESDAY 1ST JANUARY
NEW YEARS DAY



A PUBLICATION OF THE HIGH COMMISSION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, LONDON
42 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON SW1X 8NT | **TEL:** 020 7245 9351 | **FAX:** 020 7823 1065 | **EMAIL:** HCLONDONPACT@FOREIGN.GOV.TT
WEBSITE: WWW.FOREIGN.GOV.TT/HCLONDON